

Professional Development in Political Science

Fall 2025 – POS 6015

Professor: Hannah M. Alarian (she/her/hers)

Email: halarian@ufl.edu

Office: Anderson Hall 004

Office Hours: T 1–3pm, on [Calendly](#)

Class: F 12:50 PM – 2:30 PM

Location: Anderson 216

Website: hannahalarian.com

Course Description

Professional development for a graduate career in Political Science. Covers the research process, emerging issues, developing a professional scholarly identity, and careers. Required course for graduate students in their first year. Although this is a 0-credit course, please note that you may be charged 1 credit if you are not enrolled in other courses.

Required Texts

There are no required books for this course.

Course Goals

Through full participation in this course, the graduate political science student will:

1. Demonstrate awareness of prominent speakers at the UF campus and wider profession.
2. Understand new research topics in political science.
3. Refine skills required for participation in civil, professional discourse that is essential to academic and non-academic careers

Course Assessment

- (1) [Seminar attendance: 30%](#)
- (2) [Seminar participation: 20%](#)
- (3) [Take-Home Assessments: 25%](#)
- (4) [Research Seminar in Politics \(RSP\) Attendance: 25%](#)

Seminar attendance –30%

Students are expected to attend each seminar meeting in its entirety. Seminars will be scheduled 3-4 times per semester, for 1.5-2 hours each time. Attendance evaluation includes timeliness. Prompt attendance is expected as a demonstration of professional commitment. Acceptable reasons for seminar [absences](#) are discussed below.

Seminar participation – 20%

This seminar relies heavily on student participation. Students should attend seminars ready to discuss the topic and any reading assigned.

Students are also expected to be active participants during the seminar. This includes listening carefully, taking notes, and engaging in questioning and discussing each topic. The quality of participation is assessed—not necessarily the quantity. I understand some students may feel uncomfortable speaking in class, but the class and I benefit from hearing a wide range of perspectives. If you are a frequent contributor to class discussion, I urge you to be considerate of your classmates and encourage an open conversation for those who wish to speak.

Participation will be assessed according to the following components. Broadly, a grade of Satisfactory indicates strong performance or needs development in most categories. An Unsatisfactory is Unsatisfactory in some or nearly all categories.

	Strong	Needs Development	Unsatisfactory
<i>Listening</i>	Actively and respectfully listens to peers and instructor	Respectful but not engaged by comments of others	Projects lack of interest or disrespect for others (including browsing other materials during class, not taking notes, or leaving without explanation)
<i>Preparation</i>	Arrives fully prepared with all assignments completed, and notes on reading, observations, and questions	Sometimes arrives with only superficial preparation	Arrives unprepared and with little evidence of having completed or thought about assigned material or topic
<i>Quality of contributions</i>	Comments are relevant and reflect an understanding of assignments and topics and insights about assigned material	Comments occasionally show lack of preparation or understanding	Comments reflect little understanding of either the assignment or topic
<i>Impact on class</i>	Comments frequently help move discussion forward	Comments keep the conversation on track, but do little to move it forward	Comments do not advance the conversation or are actively harmful to it
<i>Frequency of participation</i>	Actively participates at appropriate times	Participates when called upon, but no more	Seldom participates and is generally disengaged

Take-Home Assignments– 25%

Each assignment will be submitted on Canvas and will be worth 12.5% of your total assessment. See policies on [Grade Adjustments](#) and [Late or Make-up Assignments](#) below. Additionally, review the policies on [Grading](#) and [Academic Integrity](#).

Assignment 1: Scholarly Identity Exercise.

Identify five scholars in your chosen subfield *working at universities at which you would want to work* and who have *been hired within the last 5 years*. These will preferably be scholars whose work you think of highly.

Your written response should identify:

- 1) Each scholar's scholarly identity;
- 2) the rationale for selecting each scholar;
- 3) themes you identify within their CVs collectively (e.g., where are they publishing? What did they publish in graduate school? How many publications? How many co-authored senior/junior scholars? etc.)

Assignment 2: Academic CV

Prepare a professional, academic CV. CVs can be created in Word or LaTeX and should conform to the expectations discussed within the CV seminar.

Research Seminar in Politics (RSP) Attendance – 25%

Students are expected to attend **two** Research Seminar in Politics (RSP) scheduled at the class time (12:50-2:30pm on Fridays) in their entirety. RSPs will be scheduled throughout the semester by the RSP coordinator and will be communicated via your university email.

Grading Scale

Percent	Grade
70.0 – 100.0	S
0.0 – 69.9	U

Class Policies

Syllabus

This syllabus is a living document. This means it is subject to change. All potential changes will be communicated to you in our class meetings and on Canvas.

Email

Your UFL email account is the official email address the University uses for official correspondence. Important communication regarding this course may also take place via email, and your UFL email address will be used. All students need to check their email at least once per day. Make checking it part of your daily routine.

Grade adjustment policy

I do not round or adjust grades. This policy holds all students in equal standing.

Absences

Excused absences accord only with the university attendance policy.

Late or Make-up Assignments

No late or make-up assignments will be accepted without prior approval. If an assignment is submitted late without prior approval, it will receive a 0. Generally, at least one week in advance notice is required for assignment extension requests.

Contacting the Professor

Students should use their university email to contact me. You may also contact me via Canvas. Students should plan to visit my office during office hours, which are available through [Calendly](#).

Referencing the Professor

Often, students have questions about proper naming or titling etiquette for communicating with their professors. To remove this confusion and reduce email anxiety, you may use any of the following acceptable references in all communication with me throughout our course.

- Professor Alarian
- Dr. Alarian
- Prof. A.
- Dr. A.

Email/Messaging Hours

You may email me at any time that is convenient for you. I will respond within one business day between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Please resend your message if you do not receive my reply after 48 hours. Although I may sometimes reply outside these designated hours, responses cannot be guaranteed after 5 p.m. on weekdays, weekends, or holidays. Please plan accordingly to have your questions answered in advance of assignment and exam deadlines.

Inclusion, Equality, and Respect

Many topics covered in the seminar may be controversial, divisive, or difficult. Creating an inclusive, respectful, and safe classroom environment is integral to the success of this course. To this end, all students are expected to treat each other at all times with respect, courtesy, tolerance, fairness, and justice. We will work together as a class on this goal, and I will continuously check in to ensure all students can be heard and respected and consider new theories and ideas without prejudice.

University Policies and Resources

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see this [link](#).

Semester Schedule

Date	Topic/Assignment
August 29	Building your Academic Footprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green, Amelia. 2013. How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps. Hatemi, Peter K., and Rose McDermott. "Strategies for Picking the Right Adviser." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 55.4 (2022): 793-798 Hill, Kim Quaile. "Research Career Paths Among Political Scientists in Research Institutions." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 54.2 (2021): 271-275.
September 12	Assignment 1: Scholarly Identity Exercise. Due by 5pm
September 26	Time Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Timesheet log and anonymous survey September 24 Lebo, Matthew J. "Managing your research pipeline." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 49.2 (2016): 259-264.
October 10	Academic CVs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review in detail the CVs identified from the Scholarly Identity Exercise Kim, Hannah June, and Bernard Grofman. "Who Creates a Google Scholar Profile?." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 53.3 (2020): 515-520.
October 24	Assignment 2: Academic CV. Due by 5pm.
November 14	Academic Conferences and Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim, Seo-Young Silvia, Hannah Lebovits, and Sarah Shugars. "Networking 101 for Graduate Students: Building a Bigger Table." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 55.2 (2022): 307-312 Pole, Antoinette, and Sangeeta Parashar. "Am I pretty? 10 tips to designing visually appealing slideware presentations." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 53.4 (2020): 757-762